throughout the country including the State of Punjab are: the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). While the JRY is a wage-employment programme; whereas the IRDP is a self-employment programme. In Punjab 85470 families have been assisted at an expenditure of Rs. 3911.39 lakh under IRDP from 1992-93 to 1995-96 (upto September 1995) and 101.15 lakh mandays have been generated under JRY from 1992-93 to 1995-96 (upto October, 1995) at an expenditure of Rs. 6595.01 lakh.

Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) is being implemented throughout the country including Punjab with the objective of providing self-employment and wage-employment opportunities to unemployed and under-employed urban poor living below the proverty line. In Punjab Central assistance of Rs. 1529.09 lakh has been released under NRY upto 1994-95. As on 31.10.1995, 17,274 beneficiaries have been assisted in setting up self-employment ventures in the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and 10.62 lakh mandays of work have been generated under the Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE) and the Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU).

A new scheme called Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP) which was launched in 1995-96 has integration of employment generation with the provision of basic services to the poor segments of the society as one of its basic features.

Revamping of PDS

728. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has urged the States to plug gaps in the revamped PDS;

(b) if so, whether he suggested that matter of food supplies and food security should be kept outside the realm of politics;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken a decision that PDS must reach every village in the country;

(d) if so, whether any decision for opening of more fair price shops in the country during 1995-96 has been taken;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government have assured that PDS supplies are provided to these fair price shops in time; and

(g) if so, to what extent the above commodities will be supplied to the States according to their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) Prime Minister has been impressing from time to time in various fora that States/UTs should tone up the functioning of Public Distribution System (PDS) including Revamped PDS (RPDS). In the meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS held on 7.6.95 the Prime Minister impressed on the States/UTs on the need for ensuring that the benefits of the PDS/RPDS reach the people.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (g) As per the present policy of the Central Government coverage of PDS is universal in nature and all village are covered under the PDS. Under joint responsibility of PDS, the Central Government procures, stores, transports and makes bulk allocation of six key essential commodities viz. rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, imported palm oil and soft coke to States/UTs for distribution through PDS. It is the operational responsibility of States/UTs to implement the PDS in the area of their jurisdiction and take decisions on matters such as sub-allocation to various regions within

the State/UT, opening of fair price shops and also to ensure supplies reach the fair price shops, regularly and on time. Central Government has not set any separate target for opening of fair price shops (FPS) by the States during 1995-96. State Governments/UT Administrations had set themselves a target of opening 10580 additional FPSs in the areas covered under the RPDS. Against this target as per reports received from States/UTs till 15th November, 1995, a total number of 15232 FPSs have been opened in the RPDS areas. The allocations of various items are made keeping in view the production, availability in central pool, open market availability, seasonal factors and inter-se demands from States/UTs. The request by States/UTs for additional allocation are considered from time to time keeping in view the above factors. The Central Government also provides financial assistance to States/UTs for construction of godowns and purchase of vans in RPDS areas for improving the infrastructure and delivery system to effectively reach PDS items to consumer. The implementation of PDS/RPDS is reviewed from time to time with States/UTs by Central Government in various fora to ensure streamlining and improvement in the system which is a continual process.

Formation of a Working Group

729. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the difficulties in the way for Government to form a working group to study the long term impact of various legislations on beedi and cigar workers of Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that various Ministers have authority to form a working group to study and review various policies and subjects; and

(c) if so, reasons for delay in forming a working group on this subject by t Minister of Labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOU (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) (c) A tripartite Central Adviso Committee has been constituted to adv the Central Government on all matt relating to the administration of t Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 19 At the State level, State Level Adviso Committees have also been set up. The is no proposal under consideration constitute a working group for the bee and cigar workers of Bihar.

Awareness regarding Consun Protection

730. SHRI KRISHAN LA SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIV SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAI AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that awaren of consumer protection has not reach many departments of various St Governments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ma police departments in the States are n aware of consumer protection with t result that many decisions of t consumer courts have not be implemented; and

(c) if so, whether government propo to intensify its campaign of spreadi awareness about consumer protection; so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIE CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBL DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SH VENOD SHARMA): (a) and (b) All t